

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 FMC-01 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3028

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, GH, SCUL, OEXC
SUBJ: AFL-CIO CONVENTION, DECEMBER 8-14, 1977

REF: STATE 48024

1. J.R. BAIDEN, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
MARITIME AND DOCKWORKERS UNION, WAS OUR PARTICIPANT
IN THE 30-DAY PROGRAM FOR LABOR LEADERS WHICH INCLUDE

ATTENDANCE AT AFL-CIO # LOS ANGELES, AFTER

REVIEWING BAIDEN'S PROGRAM AND DISCUSSING IT WITH HIM,

WE BELIEVE THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES AS SET FORTH IN
PARAGRAPH ONE OF THE REFTEL WERE MET.

2. REGARDING HIS PERSONAL GOALS, MOST OF BAIDEN'S
INTERESTS WERE COVERED IN HIS PROGRAM IN THE US.
HE VISITED A PORT HANDLING CONTAINERIZED CARGO,
VISITED AN INSTITUTION DOING RESEARCH ON THE AFRICAN
ECONOMY AND MET WITH BLACK COMMUNITY LEADERS, INTER ALIA.
UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF THE DOCKWORKERS STRIKE HE DID
NOT MEET AS MANY LABOR LEADERS AS HE WOULD HAVE LIKED.

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3. BAIDEN HAS ONLY PRAISE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE
ASPECTS OF HIS U.S. VISIT. REGARDING SUBSTANCE, HE WAS
ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY THE WASHINGTON ORIENTATION,
NOTABLY THE SESSIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND LABOR AFFAIRS
AND THE FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. BAIDEN NOTED THAT AS THE
WORK AT THE AFL-CIO MEETING WAS DONE IN COMMITTEES,

THE FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS HAD LITTLE CHANCE TO OBSERVE
THE PROCEDURES.

4. THIS POST MAINTAINS REGULAR CONTACT WITH BAIDEN,
THE ARTICULATE HEAD OF A KEY UNION REPRESENTING
WORKERS IN GHANA'S PORTS. HE IS BOTH INFLUENTIAL AND A
VALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THE LABOR-POLITICAL
SITUATION. ICA ACCRA PLANS TO INTERVIEW BAIDEN
FOR ITS SEMI-WEEKLY MAGAZINE AMANNEE, IN THE REAR
FUTURE. SMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION - CORRECTION TO FOLLOW

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Message Attributes

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